

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-20 AID-20 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 HEW-08 DRC-01

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R 130647Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9945

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 VIENTIANE 5492

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - QUARTERLY REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS

REF: A) STATE A-3527

B) STATE 142880

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM
IN LAOS REQUESTED REF A. PARA 15 PROVIDES INFO RE SECTION
481 FUNDS REQUESTED REFS A AND B.

2. SUMMARY: DURING SECOND QUARTER (APRIL TO JUNE), LAOS
WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH POLITICAL MANEUVERING RELATING TO
ESTABLISHMENT, APRIL 5, OF COALITION GOVERNMENT (PGNU)
WITH VIENTIANE SIDE AND LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF)
PARTICIPATION. PGNU HAS YET TO ADDRESS ISSUE OF NARCOTICS
CONTROL IN LAOS AND, AS A RESULT, RLG PROGRAM HAS GONE
FORWARD GENERALLY UNAFFECTED BY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.
ENFORCEMENT SUCCESSES IN NEIGHBORING THAILAND AND BURMA
LEAD TO POSSIBILITY THAT TRAFFICKERS MAY ATTEMPT TO RE-

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ESTABLISH ROUTES, HEROIN REFINERIES, AND CONNECTIONS IN

LAOS.

3. ABUSE: PRICE OF HEROIN NO. 4 REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF \$3,000 PER 350 GRAMS IN VIENTIANE DURING APRIL 1974. THOUGH PRICE DECLINED SLIGHTLY DURING MAY AND JUNE, IT REMAINS HIGH AT \$2,900 PER 350 GRAMS. THIS HIGH PRICE IS DUE TO SCARCITY OF HEROIN AND/OR INCREASED RISK FACTOR TO DEALERS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT BY THE THAI AND BURMESE AND TO CONTINUING ANTI-NARCOTICS PRESSURE BY ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN LAOS. THERE ALSO IS AN AREA-WIDE LACK OF THE CHEMICALS NECESSARY TO PRODUCE OPIATES. THUS, THERE IS PRESENTLY ONLY EVIDENCE OF SMALL VOLUME AND SMALLER MOBILE HEROIN REFINERIES OPERATING IN THAILAND AND BURMA IN LIEU OF LARGER-SCALE OPERATIONS THAT EXISTED IN PAST. WHILE RUDIMENTARY OPIUM PROCESSING CONTINUES AT SCATTERED LOCATIONS IN LAOS, NO NEW HEROIN REFINERIES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED SINCE THE LAST ONE WAS DESTROYED IN 1972. LAOTIAN DRUG ADDICTS CONTINUE TO PRIMARILY USE OPIUM, BUT MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME ADDICTED TO SMOKING NO. 3 HEROIN HAVE BEEN FORCED BY THE RECENT PRICE RISE TO REVERT TO OPIUM.

4. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING: IN JUNE, USAID MISSION ISSUED ITS 1974 SURVEY OF POPPY-GROWING AREAS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN LAOS UNDER VIENTIANE SIDE ADMINISTRATION. ON BASIS OF THIS SURVEY, PRODUCTION IN VIENTIANE SIDE ZONE IS ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 39.0 METRIC TONS. THE AREA PHOTOGRAPHED INCLUDED PARTS OF VIENTIANE, XIENG KHOUANG, LUANG PRABANG, SAYABOURY AND HOUA KHONG PROVINCES. WHILE HECTARAGE IN POPPY THIS YEAR IS ALMOST DOUBLE LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATED HECTARAGE, INCREASE IN ESTIMATED PRODUCTION IS PRIMARILY RESULT OF MORE EXTENSIVE AERIAL COVERAGE THIS YEAR (I.E., 45,000 SQ. KM IN 1974 V. 11,000 KM IN 1973). BASED UPON AN AREA-BY-AREA COMPARISON WITH 1973 SURVEY, THE GENERAL TREND IN PRODUCTION IS DOWNWARD AND PRIMARILY REFLECTS WAR-RELATED MIGRATION OF HILLTRIBE GROUPS AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL GROWING AREAS SINCE 1973 SURVEY. BECAUSE OF THIS MIGRATION, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RELATE APPARENT DECREASE IN POPPY CULTIVATION TO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. SURVEY CONCLUDES THAT TRADITIONAL POPPY-

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GROWING AREAS, WHEN ENJOYING STABLE SECURITY SITUATION, HAVE POTENTIAL FOR CONTINUED POPPY CULTIVATION UNTIL ALTERNATE CROPS ARE SUBSTITUTED SYSTEMATICALLY ON LARGE SCALE. (COPIES OF SURVEY HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.)

5. DURING SECOND QUARTER, LAOS REMAINED A COMPARATIVELY MINOR SOURCE OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN SEA. HOWEVER, RECENT ACTIONS BY THE BURMESE AGAINST OPIUM CARAVANS AND

HEROIN REFINERIES IN THEIR AREAS, COUPLED WITH THE NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF THE THAIS IN BANGKOK AND NORTHERN THAILAND, GIVE RISE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT GOLDEN TRIANGLE TRAFFICKERS WILL ATTEMPT TO RE-ESTABLISH ROUTES AND HEROIN REFINERIES IN LAOS. LAOS, THEREFORE, MUST CONTINUE ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

6. ENFORCEMENT: DURING PERIOD APRIL-JUNE, THERE WERE 16 NARCOTICS SEIZURES (I.E., 2 BY GSI, 1 BY CUSTOMS, 3 BY MILITARY POLICE, 9 BY LAO NATIONAL POLICE AND 1 SEIZURE BY JOINT EFFORTS). VARIOUS TYPES OF NARCOTICS WERE SEIZED (I.E., 8 WERE OPIUM SEIZURES, 6 WERE NO. 3 HEROIN SEIZURES AND NONE WAS A NO. 4 HEROIN SEIZURE). ONE MAJOR OPERATION TOOK PLACE APRIL 23 WHEN 129.2 KILOS OF OPIUM WERE SEIZED BY LAO MILITARY POLICE IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE. DURING THE QUARTER, THE TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED BY ALL AGENCIES WAS: 191.7 KGS. OPIUM; 0.387 KGS. NO. 3 HEROIN; AND ZERO KGS. NO. 4. FOUR SENTENCES, THREE IN ABSENTIA, WERE HANDED DOWN BY LAO COURTS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS DURING REPORTING PERIOD. IRONICALLY, EFFORTS MOUNTED IN PAST TO REPEAL LAO ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW HAVE BEEN IMPEDED BY FACT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS NOT BEEN RECONVENED.

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7. INCOME SUBSTITUTION: DURING QUARTER, FOUR NEW ACTIVITIES WERE STARTED: PILOT CASTOR BEAN TESTING AND PRODUCTION AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OF DRY SEASON ROAD TO THE HIGH-ALTITUDE EXPERIMENTAL CROP CENTER AT PHU PHA DANG; FARM TRACTOR PLOWING PROJECT AT NA KONG; AND EXPANSION OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN HOUA KHONG PROVINCE TO DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR RELOCATION OF FORMER OPIUM GROWERS. MOREOVER, PLANTINGS OF VARIOUS CROPS (INCLUDING COFFEE, GINSENG, SESAME PLUS SEVEN FIELD CROPS) WERE MADE AT PHU PHA DANG. THE WATER SYSTEM FOR FORMER POPPY GROWERS AT NAKONG VILLAGE WAS COMPLETED, WHILE PADDY DIKING OPERATIONS THERE CONTINUED. DURING REPORTING PERIOD, 55 HILLTRIBE FARMERS WERE TRAINED AT XIENG NGUEN REDIRECTION CENTER IN LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE. DURING JULY THIS YEAR, A COMPLETE EVALUATION OF CENTER WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A JOINT USAID/PGNU TEAM TO DETERMINE RESULTS OF ENTIRE TRAINING PROGRAM AFTER ONE YEAR OF OPERATION.

8. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION: PATIENTS AT THE RLG DETOXIFICATION AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN VIENTIANE HAVE BEEN AVERAGING 50 PER MONTH. PLANNING FOR THE NEW
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DETOX CENTER WAS COMPLETED JULY 9, AND CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BEGIN LATE IN 1974. USAID PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING TO RLG HEALTH MINISTRY THE NEED FOR MORE LAO MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO STAFF RLG DETOX FACILITIES. RECORD-KEEPING CHANGES HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO IMPROVE THE CENTER'S EVALUATION CAPABILITY IN ACCORD WITH RECOMMENDATIONS IN WESTERMAYER REPORT. FOLLOWUP OF DISCHARGED PATIENTS WILL START IN SEPTEMBER.

9. TRAINING: DURING THE QUARTER, TWO LAO MILITARY POLICE PERSONNEL COMPLETED TRAINING AT FORT GORDON IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, AS WELL AS THE SIX-WEEK DEA NARCOTICS TRAINING COURSE, WHILE TWO LAO NATIONAL POLICE (LNP) OFFICERS COMPLETED THE NARCOTICS MANAGEMENT COURSE AT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY. CUSTOMS AND DEA CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE FIELD, BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE. THIS TRAINING WAS BRIEF, UNSCHEDULED, AND INFORMAL IN KEEPING WITH THE MISSION'S POLICY OF MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE. A TWELVE-HOUR TRAINING PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED BY CAD FOR PRESENTATION ENTIRELY BY LAO CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND 14 OFFICERS COMPLETED THIS COURSE IN BAN HOUEI SAI DURING APRIL AND MAY.

10. THE CCINC CUSTOMS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING TEAM SESSIONS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL WERE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES. THEY WILL BE

RESCHEDULED IF AND WHEN CLEARANCES CAN BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

1. USAID SENT DR. SOUDALY, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION AND REHABILITATION CENTER, TO THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE-MONTH COURSE ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION WITH OTHERS FROM ASIA ENGAGED IN SIMILAR WORK. USAID/PSD-INITIATED ONE-WEEK, IN-COUNTRY NARCOTICS SEMINAR TRAINING FOR 16 LPN OFFICERS. USAID/AGR SENT TWO PERSONS TO THAILAND FOR SHORT TERM TRAINING AND EIGHT ARE PRESENTLY RECEIVING IN-COUNTRY TRAINING.

12. REGIONAL COOPERATION: U.S. OFFICIALS WORKING ON THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM ATTENDED MAY 29 - JUNE 2 TRI-COUNTRY NARCOTICS MEETING IN HONG KONG, AT WHICH REGIONAL COOPERATION WAS DISCUSSED. PLANNED UNFDAC VISIT TO LAOS IN MAY WAS POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER. IT IS HOPED THAT UN WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CROP SUBSTITUTION FIELD, AS THEY ARE PRESENTLY DOING IN THAILAND. SEVERAL VISITS BY RLG OFFICIALS WERE MADE TO UN PROJECT IN CHIANG MAI DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

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13. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES: IN GENERAL, THE DRUG QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN PERCEIVED BY EITHER LAO SIDE AS A MAJOR PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS PERIOD OF INTENSE POLITICAL FLUX AND INFIGHTING. ON VIENTIANE SIDE, MANY LEADERS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH NARCOTICS PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY ON THE NEED FOR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUBSTITUTE CROPS FOR OPIUM GROWERS. IN LATE APRIL, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER SITHAT SITHIBOUN CRITICIZED U.S. ROLE IN DRUG PROGRAM AND CALLED FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO BE PAID TO PLIGHT OF TRIBAL PEOPLE. THE PATHET LAO HAVE SHOWN PRACTICALLY NO INTEREST IN NARCOTICS PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH THEY DID AIR SITHAT'S STATEMENTS OVER RADIO PATHET LAO. PATHET LAO ARE STILL FEELING THEIR WAY, ALTHOUGH SOUPHANOUVONG'S 18-POINT POLITICAL PROGRAM, PUBLISHED IN MAY, PERHAPS GIVES SOME INKLING OF WHAT FUTURE HOLDS: IT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR LAO SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ALL FIELDS, WHILE, AT SAME TIME, EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AID FROM ALL DONORS WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

14. MISSION STILL BELIEVES THAT, EVENTUALLY, LPF WILL OPPOSE PRESENCE OF U.S. NARCOTICS ADVISERS IN COUNTRY, BUT ONLY TIME WILL TELL. IN SOME INSTANCES, MIDDLE-ECHELON PEOPLE--ESPECIALLY IN LAOS CUSTOMS--APPEAR TO BE DOING THEIR JOBS MORE CONSCIENTIOUSLY AS A RESULT OF PATHET LAO PRESENCE. DURING HIS CALLS ON NEW PGNU MINISTERS,

AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE AND USAID DIRECTOR MANN RAISED THE
NARCOTICS PROBLEM WITH THEM AND THEY STRESSED CONTINUED
U.S. INTEREST IN THE LAO ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 VIENTIANE 5492

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY

OF OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

COVERING IERIOD JULY 1, 1973 TO JUNE 30, 1974.

OBL. EXP. BAL.

A. PERSONNE

(IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

US/DIRECT HIRE	20894	N 131.2;	77.2
(ENF. & PRO. SUPPORT)			

PASA (CUSTOM ENF.)	212.6	.3	212.2
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CONTRACT	174.5	86.3	93.2
(INC. SUB. & REHAB.)			

PARTICIPANTS

ENF.-PSD/NC	28.5	26.3	2.2
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REHAB/USAID	3.0	2.3	.7
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COMMODITIES

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ENFORCEMENT	66.0	36.5	29.5
INCOME SUBS.	93.7	24.3	69.4
TREATMENT/REHAB.	136.0	22.5	113.5

OTHER COSTS

DIRECT (ENF. & PRO SUPPORT)	277.9	160.8	117.2
PASA (CUST./ENF.)	3.6	.2	3.4
CONTRACT (INCOME SUB. & REHAB.)	404.7	88.1	316.6

TOTAL	1,614.0	578.7	1,035.2#
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#BALANCE SHOWN ABOVE ATTRIBUTED TO PERSONNEL COSTS FOR CONTRACT THAT GO BEYOND FISCAL YEAR. AOCS NOT YET RECEIVED FOR PERSONNEL COSTS. CUSTOMS PASA, COMMODITIES ORDERED BUT NOT YET RECEIVED AND TECHNICAL SERVICES NOT COMPLETED (I.E., NATIONAL DETOX. CENTER).

B. TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FROM JULY 1, 1973 TO JUNE 30, 1974:

TYPES	QUANTITIES	OBL (\$000)
LAO TYPEWRITERS	10	3.3
SEDANS	1 2.5	
FILE CABINETS (FINGERPRINT)	10	4.9
RADIOS (VHF/FM) & PARTS		17.7
VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES		42.0
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		1.2
AERIAL SURVEY SUPPLIES		2.5
PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT		5.2
FARM TRACTORS	4	45.0

C. SUPPORT COSTS ARE RECORDED ABOVE.

D. NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TRAINED IN COUNTRY, IN THE REGION, AND IN U.S. AND BY WHICH AGENCY RECORDED IN PARAS 9 AND 15.

16. NARCOTICS CONTROL COORDINATOR AT AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IS FSO ROBERT P. MYERS, JR.

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Message Attributes

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